

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 34283 232349Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00  
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-05 CEA-01  
/092 W

-----097623 240842Z /11

R 231940Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2107  
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 34283

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, FR  
SUBJECT: BARRE - CHIRAC -- THE GENTLEMEN DISAGREE

REF: PARIS 33674

SUMMARY. DURING A LENGTHY TELEVISION APPEARANCE,  
JACQUES CHIRAC CRITICIZED PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S ECONO-  
MIC POLICIES AND WARNED AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT BY BARRE TO  
IMPOSE HIS PROGRAM ON MAJORITY CANDIDATES. CHIRAC  
EMPHASIZED THE PLURALIST NATURE OF THE MAJORITY AND  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 34283 232349Z

DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL PARTIES TO DISAGREE  
WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON PARTICULAR POLICIES. AT THE  
SAME TIME HE PREDICABLY MAINTAINED HIS LOYALTY TO THE  
MAJORITY FOR THE COMING ELECTION AND AS A BASIS OF  
GOVERNMENT THEREAFTER. THREE DAYS LATER, PRIME MINISTER  
BARRE DEFENDED HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES VIGOROUSLY, BUT  
DOWNPLAYED ANY POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE RPR.

END SUMMARY.

1. CHIRAC ALLEGED THAT FRANCE'S SICK ECONOMY WAS NOT IMPROVING AND THAT THE MEDICINE HAD TO BE CHANGED. HE CALLED FOR FREE PRICING COMBINED WITH IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNAL MARKETING STRUCTURES AND SAID THAT THESE WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN CONTROLS IN HOLDING DOWN PRICE INCREASES. HE ALSO CALLED FOR AN ATTACK ON UNEMPLOYMENT, BASED ON MEASURES TO INCREASE INVESTMENT. CONCERNING BARRE'S EFFORTS TO DEFINE OBJECTIVES FOR ACTION FOR THE POST-ELECTION GOVERNMENT, CHIRAC NOTED THAT THE TERM OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS ENDING. IF BARRE'S EFFORT, HE CONTINUED, REPRESENTED A TESTAMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND GENERAL CONCEPTS, THEN IT POSED NO PROBLEM. HOWEVER, IF IT REPRESENTED AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE FUTURE GOVERNMENT POLICY IN ADVANCE OF THE ELECTIONS OR TO POSE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING "GOOD OR BAD" MAJORITY CANDIDATES FOR BARRE'S ELECTORAL SUPPORT OR SUBSEQUENT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, THEN IT WAS DANGEROUS AND OPPOSED TO THE RPR'S VIEWS.

2. BARRE KEPT HIS RESPONSE LOW KEY, STATING THAT HIS ECONOMIC POLICY WAS A REALISTIC ANSWER TO FRANCE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND WAS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT A SITUATION ALLOWING FOR MORE POSITIVE ACTION. NOTING CHIRAC'S COMMENT THAT A "TESTAMENT" OF THE BARRE GOVERNMENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 34283 232349Z

MENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, BARRE STATED SARCASTICALLY THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE AND THAT HIS PROPOSALS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE AS A BASIS FOR THEIR CHOICE IN MARCH.

3. COMMENT: THE INTRA MAJORITY BY-PLAY BETWEEN BARRE AND CHIRAC WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE AS BARRE ATTEMPTS TO MAINTAIN THE AUTHORITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND POLICIES IN THE FACE OF POLITICAL AMBITIONS OF THE SEPARATE MAJORITY PARTIES. RPR CANDIDATES, FOR THEIR PART, WILL FACE TOUGH COMPETITION FROM OTHER CANDIDATES ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY CLOSELY WITH BARRE AND GISCARD. GENUINE DIFFERENCES OVER ECONOMIC POLICY AND GISCARD'S DESIRE FOR AN OPENING TO THE LEFT WILL NO DOUBT ACCENTUATE THIS COMPETITION. BUT FOR THE TIME BEING THE DEBATE BETWEEN CHIRAC AND BARRE IS BEING KEPT WITHIN BOUNDS AND HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO EXPAND TO A FULL-BLOWN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CHIRAC AND GISCARD. THE RADIO - TV EXCHANGES HAVE CAPTURED TEMPORARILY THE ATTENTION OF THE FRENCH WHO WERE LULLED INTO BELIEVING ALL INTERNAL PROBLEMS RESIDE IN THE LEFT. THEY HAVE ADDED A REALISTIC NOTE TO THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE MAJORITY AND

MAY EVEN SERVE AS A WARNING THAT THE MAJORITY DOES NOT  
HAVE A STRONG ENOUGH POSITION TO ENJOY THE LUXURY OF  
SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS BEFORE NEXT MARCH.

HARTMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY UNITY, POLITICAL PARTIES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PARIS34283  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770436-0593  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771126/aaaaavjo.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8fdb1e13-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PARIS 33674  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 475102  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BARRE - CHIRAC -- THE GENTLEMEN DISAGREE  
**TAGS:** PINT, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8fdb1e13-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009